

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 237

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 6900

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

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SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION REPORT

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1. SUMMARY - PRIVATE PAPERS NOVEMBER 15 FRONTPAGED WIRESERVICE REPORTS KISSINGER PEKING COMMUNIQUE WHILE OFFICIAL PAPERS DOWNPLAYED ON BACKPAGES. ALL MAJOR PAPERS FRONTPAGED MOFA STATEMENT DECLARING COMMUNIQUE NULL AND VOID. IN ONLY INITIAL EDITORIAL COMMENT, UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) SAW NO CHANGES IN U.S. HONORING MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMITMENTS TO TAIWAN, ADDING KISSINGER OBVIOUSLY FAILED TO RESOLVE DISPUTES AND DIFFERENCES IN MAO-CHOU TALKS BUT THAT U.S. FOOLISHLY PLAYING WITH FIRE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIVATE PAPERS NOVEMBER 15 FRONTPAGED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF KISSINGER'S PEKING COMMUNIQUE WHILE OFFICIAL PAPERS MINIMIZED IMPORTANCE ON BACK PAGES.

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3. MOFA NOVEMBER 14 STATEMENT DECLARED COMMUNIQUE NULL AND VOID (SEE REFTEL).

4. PRIVATE, LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000 ESTIMATE) IN ONLY INITIAL EDITORIAL COMMENT GAVE SIX-POINT ANALYSIS: (1) COMMUNIQUE APPARENTLY FOLLOWS SAME FORMULA AS SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, INTONING SEPARATELY U.S.-PEKING POSITIONS AND REPEATING MOST OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. "JUDGING FROM WHAT WAS SAID IN THE COMMUNIQUE, IT CAN BE SEEN THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGE IN AMERICA'S HONORING OF ITS MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY COMMITMENTS TO TAIWAN." (2) KISSINGER OBVIOUSLY FAILED TO RESOLVE DISPUTES AND DIFFERENCES IN LONG TALKS WITH MAO AND CHOU. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT DISTURB BALANCE OF U.S.-USSR-PEIPING TRIANGULAR RELATIONS OR AROUSE MOSCOW'S SUSPICION AND ADVERSE REACTION, THAT PEIPING'S BASIC ANTI-U.S. LINES HAVE NOT BEEN ALTERED AND THAT HEAT FOR PEIPING RAPPROACHMENT IN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS COOLED. (3) COMMUNIQUE'S REITERATION OF NO HEGEMONY IN ASIA AND PACIFIC AREA MEANS PAT ON MOSCOW'S SHOULDER BUT AT SAME TIME, A WARNING AND DETERRENT AGAINST SOVIET EXPANSION. (4) KISSINGERS REPORTED ASSURANCES ON LONGRANGE U.S. CHINA POLICY REFLECTED CHINESE ANXIETIES THAT WATERGATE MIGHT UPSET PEIPING'S OPPORTUNITIES FOR USING U.S. AGAINST USSR OR TO SUPPRESS INTERNAL UPRISING. (5) TO MAINTAIN CHOU'S PRECARIOUS REVISIONIST AND PRO-U.S. POLICY, PEIPING DARED NOT MAKE DRASTIC LEAP FORWARD OR BACKWARD IN COMMUNIQUE, (6) COMMUNIQUE'S SILENCE ON MIDEAST AND INDOCHINA REFLECTED ACUTE U.S.-CHINA DIFFERENCES THESE ISSUES.

5. PAPER CONCLUDED THAT, REGRETFULLY, U.S. HAS NOT REALIZED ITS MISTAKES AND CONTINUES IN ILLUSION OF MULTILATERAL EQUILIBRIUM, DOING FOOLISH THINGS HARMFUL TO THE VALIDITY OF U.S. LEADERSHIP OF FREE WORLD AND INJURING ROC INTERESTS. "THIS IS AN INEXCUSABLE MISTAKE OF THE U.S. AND ALSO DANGEROUS PLAYING WITH FIRE."
CLARKE

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